

Virginia Department of Corrections
COMMENTS SOUGHT ON ALTERNATIVE RULEMAKING PROPOSALS
REGARDING ISSUES RELATED TO INMATE CALLING SERVICES

DATE: 5/1/07

FCC Docket No.: 96-128

Recommended Action: Oppose

Comments:

The Virginia Department of Corrections does not support the proposed rule, if adopted, that would establish long distance inmate telephone service rate limits of \$0.20 per minute for debit (prepaid) calls and \$0.25 per minute for collect calls, with no per-call charge.

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) wants to continue to negotiate rates directly with the contract provider to ensure that the Commonwealth is entitled to the same competitive profit margins as found in the private sector. Also, the Virginia Department of Corrections utilizes commission monies attained from the inmate phone system to fund the Victim Information Network (VINES). The VINES system is utilized to notify victims' of changes in the status of Virginia prisoners. Such as if the inmate is scheduled for a parole review or has been transferred to a new prison facility. It is uncertain with the proposed commission funding cuts if the Victim Information Network (VINES) could continue to operate.

The inmate phone system contractor also provides telephone intelligence for investigation purposes. The contractor retrieves phone call data and provides information to the Virginia State Police, Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is uncertain with the proposed commission funding cuts if the current contractor would continue to contract with the Commonwealth and thereby provide these investigative services.